

**The Chinese University of Hong Kong**  
**2019/20 2<sup>nd</sup> semester**  
**UGED1112B Logic and Argumentation 邏輯與論辯**  
**Course Outline**

**Instructor: Dr. Kwok Pak Nin, Samson**  
**Time: Lecture- Thursday 10:30-12:15; Tutorial- TBA**  
**Venue: Lecture- CYT 203; Tutorial- TBA**

**Course overview:**

This course is designed to develop the student's ability to analyze and critically evaluate arguments from a logical point of view. It will provide students with a basic understanding of such concepts as reasons, implication, validity, and fallacies. Students will learn the logical principles of deductive and inductive inferences and the techniques of applying them for determining the validity of arguments. Elements of good reasoning from an informal perspective will also be covered.

**Learning outcomes:**

1. Acquire analytic skills and a critical disposition.
2. Grasp the central concepts in classical logic.
3. Describe the essential elements of good reasoning and argumentation.
4. Demonstrate familiarity with major proof-theoretic methods in propositional logic.
5. Translate arguments in ordinary language into symbolic argument forms.
6. Recognize common valid argument forms.
7. Identify, classify, and assess arguments in various contexts.
8. Identify and analyze informal fallacies.

**Learning activities and workload:**

- 1. Lecture:** 2 hours each week.
- 2. Interactive tutorial:** one 2-hour session. Students are required to discuss reading material assigned and do exercises on the following topics:
  - (Week 5): Basic Concepts of Argumentation theory;
  - (Week 6): Basic Concepts of Logic;
  - (Week 8): Syllogisms and Venn Diagrams;
  - (Week 9): Truth Table;
  - (Week 12): Natural Deduction;
  - (Week 15): Inductive Reasoning and Informal Fallacies

**Assessment:**

| <b>Task nature</b>   | <b>Description</b>  | <b>Weight</b> |
|----------------------|---|---------------|
| Tutorial             | Discussion and exercises  | 20%           |
| Mid-term quiz        | In class quiz   | 25%           |
| Final exam           | Centralized exam  | 40%           |
| Take home assignment | Group assignment on Argumentation theory and Informal Fallacies | 15%           |

**Grade Descriptors:**

[http://phil.arts.cuhk.edu.hk/~phidept/UG/Grade\\_descriptors.pdf](http://phil.arts.cuhk.edu.hk/~phidept/UG/Grade_descriptors.pdf)

**Details of course website:**

Lecture notes and information on assignments will be posted on the Blackboard Learn website.

### Topics & schedule:

| Week | Date   | Topic                                      | Reading  | Tutorial   |
|------|--------|--|--|--|
| 1    | Jan 9  | Introduction                               |  |  |
| 2    | Jan 16 | Basic Concepts of Argumentation theory     | 《思方導航》, 第一篇<br><i>Informal Logic</i> , Ch.1&9  |  |
| 3    | Jan 23 | Basic Concepts of Logic                    | <i>A Concise Introduction to Logic</i> ,<br>Ch. 1  |  |
| 4    | Jan 30 | <b><u>Lunar New Year Holiday</u></b>       |  |  |
| 5    | Feb 6  | Categorical Syllogisms                     | <i>A Concise Introduction to Logic</i> ,<br>Ch.4-5   | <b>1<sup>st</sup> tutorial: Basic Concepts of Argumentation theory</b>     |
| 6    | Feb 13 | Categorical Syllogisms                     | <i>A Concise Introduction to Logic</i> ,<br>Ch.4-5   | <b>2<sup>nd</sup> tutorial: Basic Concepts of Logic</b>                    |
| 7    | Feb 20 | Propositional Logic:<br>Truth table        | <i>A Concise Introduction to Logic</i> ,<br>Ch.6   |  |
| 8    | Feb 27 | Propositional Logic –<br>Natural Deduction | <i>A Concise Introduction to Logic</i> ,<br>Ch.7   | <b>3<sup>rd</sup> tutorial: Syllogisms and Venn Diagrams</b>               |
| 9    | Mar 5  | Propositional Logic –<br>Natural Deduction | <i>A Concise Introduction to Logic</i> ,<br>Ch.7   | <b>4<sup>th</sup> tutorial: Truth Table</b>                                |
| 10   | Mar 12 | <b><u>Midterm Quiz</u></b>                 |  |  |
| 11   | Mar 19 | Inductive Reasoning                        | <i>A Concise Introduction to Logic</i> ,<br>Ch.1, 9&13<br><i>How to Think About Weird Things</i> ,<br>Ch.6 |  |
| 12   | Mar 26 | Informal Fallacies                         | 《思方導航》, 第五篇  | <b>5<sup>th</sup> tutorial: Natural Deduction</b>                          |
| 13   | Apr 2  | <b><u>Reading Week</u></b>                 |  |  |
| 14   | Apr 9  | Informal Fallacies                         | 《思方導航》, 第五篇  |  |
| 15   | Apr 16 | Logic and Pragmatics                       | <i>Studies In the Way of Words</i> , Ch.2  | <b>6<sup>th</sup> tutorial: Inductive Reasoning and Informal Fallacies</b> |

### Recommended learning resources: (# main reference)

#### **Formal Logic:**

Patrick Hurley, *A Concise Introduction to Logic*, 12<sup>th</sup> ed., Cengage Learning, 2015.#

David Bostock, *Intermediate Logic*, Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1997.

Irving Copi, Carl Cohen and Kenneth McMahon, *Introduction to Logic*, 14th ed., Pearson Education Limited, 2014.

Merrie Bergmann and James Moore, *The Logic Book*, 4th ed., McGraw-Hill, 1998.

林正弘, 《邏輯》, 三民書局, 1994。

**Informal Logic and Argumentation theory:**

Douglas Walton, *Informal Logic 2nd edition*, Cambridge University Press, 2008#

Alec Fisher, *The Logic of Real Arguments*, Cambridge University Press, 1988.

Anthony Weston, *A Rulebook for Arguments*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed., Hackett Publishing Company, 2009.

Douglas Walton, *Fundamentals of Critical Argumentation*, Cambridge University Press, 2006

Paul Grice, *Studies In the Way of Words*, MA: Harvard University Press, 1989.

Theodore Schick and Lewis Vaughn, *How to Think About Weird Things: Critical Thinking for a New Age*, 7th ed., McGraw-Hill, 2014.

Trudy Govier, *A Practical Study of Argument*, 7th ed., Belmont, CA: Cengage Learning, 2010.

Trudy Govier, *Problems in Argument Analysis and Evaluation*, Foris Publications, 1987.

貝剛毅,《思方導航》(第四版), 匯智出版有限公司, 2014.#

李天命,《李天命的思考藝術》(最終定本), 明報出版社, 2009

**Contact:**

|                           |                          |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Lecturer</b>           |                          |
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| Consultation Hours        | Monday 10:30-12:00       |
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| <b>Teaching Assistant</b> |                          |
| Name:                     | TBA                      |
| Office Location:          |                          |
| Consultation Hours        |                          |
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**Feedback for evaluation:**

1. Students are strongly encouraged to provide feedback on the course via email or meetings with lecturer.
2. Students evaluate the course through a survey and written comments at the end of the term as well as via regular feedback between teacher and students. This information is highly valued and is used to revise teaching methods, tasks, and content.

**Academic honesty and plagiarism:**

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations.

Details may be found at <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/>.

With each assignment, students will be required to submit a signed **declaration** that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures. For group projects, all students of the same group should be asked to sign the declaration.

For assignments in the form of a computer-generated document that is principally text-based and submitted via VeriGuide, the statement, in the form of a receipt, will be issued by the system upon students' uploading of the soft copy of the assignment. Assignments without the receipt will not be graded by teachers. Only the final version of the assignment should be submitted via VeriGuide.